

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, and 14-17 are currently pending, Claims 9, 11-13, and 18-27 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and no claims having been amended herewith. Thus, no new matter has been added.

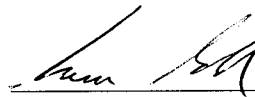
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kobayashi, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,331,969, hereinafter "Kobayashi") in view of Miyamori, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,025,946, hereinafter "Miyamori"); and Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, and 14-17 were indicated as allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, and 14-17 are allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are rendered moot by the present cancellation of Claims 19-23.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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